

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended solely to more clearly recite the features of the invention and not to distinguish the claims over the applied reference, and claims 9-20 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' attorney by Supervisory Examiner Meky and Examiner El-chanti during the April 28, 2004 personal interview are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,720 issued to Matsumoto et al. (hereinafter "Matsumoto"). For at least the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants submit that Matsumoto fails to disclose a system comprising the combination of features recited in amended claim 1 including, inter alia, the invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to join at least one document-centered discussion, view storage memory that stores view information for each active document-centered discussion and a controller that controls the invitation storage memory and view the storage to specify invitation information for at least one user and to specify view information for an accepted invitation, wherein the view information includes information which allows users of each of the heterogeneous display devices to collaborate within a document on which the document-centered discussion is based. In addition, Applicants submit that Matsumoto fails to disclose the combination of features recited in claim 4 including, inter alia, entering invitation information for the document-centered discussion into an invitation storage memory, identifying invitees of the document-centered discussion based on the invitation information in the invitation storage

memory, determining that invitation has been accepted and for the accepted invitation, entering at least one of invitee specific view information and invitation information into a view storage memory and the invitation storage memory, respectively, updating invitee's specific view information based on the specific invitee's current focus of attention with regard to the document being discussed, and updating view information for the invitees based on contacts information of an inviter, wherein the view information includes information which allows users of each of the heterogeneous display devices to collaborate within a document on which the document-centered discussion is based.

As discussed during the personal interview, Matsumoto discloses a messaging system for enabling users to simultaneously and directly send messages to numerous persons in cases where the users cannot connect directly to a chat system (Abstract). Matsumoto does not disclose or suggest a system or method that supports a document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices. More particularly, nowhere does Matsumoto disclose a system or a method which supports a document-centered discussion during which users of each of the heterogeneous display devices can collaborate within the document on which the document-centered discussion is based. Thus, Matsumoto also fails to disclose an invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to join a document-centered discussion.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Matsumoto fails to disclose or suggest all the features of independent claims 1 and 4 as well as all the features of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, which depend from claims 1 and 4, respectively.

With regard to claim 7, as discussed during the personal interview, nowhere does Matsumoto disclose a method comprising all the features of claim 7 including, inter alia, determining if a message is a discussion message, entering the discussion message into a communication queue, and if messages are to be removed from the queue, removing

discussion messages from the queue first and removing non-discussion messages after all discussion messages have been removed. Applicants submit that nowhere does Matsumoto distinguish between a discussion message and a non-discussion message because in Matsumoto the messages received by the messaging device 1 are stored, as is, without further processing (Abstract) and the type of message is irrelevant.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Matsumoto fails to disclose all the features of claim 7 as well as all the features of claim 8, which depends from claim 7.

Although the Examiners stated during the interview that a Restriction Requirement should have been made between claims 1-6 and claims 7-8, Applicants respectfully submit that a Restriction Requirement should not be made because claims 1-8 have been searched and examined in the first Office Action, and thus there is no undue burden on the Examiner to complete examination of all claims.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

With regard to new claims 9-20, Applicants submit that claims 9-20 are at least allowable for the same reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1, from which claims 9-20 depend.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Maryam M. Ipakchi

Registration No. 51,835

JAO:MMI/ccs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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